machinery optimally to reduce the rigors of intrusive and indiscriminate inspections. Further necessary legal and penal action is also taken against the employers who default in payment of dues in time.

Affairs of EPF organisation

4603. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that posting and transfer of officers has became a trade/business in the EPF organisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even the compassionate appointments are held up for more than six months in cases of sudden demise of the staff of Group C employees; and

(c) if so, the number of cases pending/held up for more than six months and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has formulated a policy for transfer and placement of Gr. 'A' Officers to the stations situated all over India. The transfer policy largely takes into account the criteria of tenure, geographical span of movement, special consideration for husband & wife and for officers on the verge of superannuation and rotation amongst functional areas.

(b) and (c) No proposal for compassionate appointment is pending for more than six months in respect of Group 'C' employees.

Measures to control unemployment

4604. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that unemployment in the country has been growing at an alarming rate and frustration has been building up among the unemployed educated youth;

(b) if so, the comprehensive plan/measures evolved to control this unabated increase;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the proposal under Government's consideration to give unemployment allowance to unemployed youth registered with various employment exchanges; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As per the Labour Force Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during the years 1993-94 and 1999-2000, the number of unemployed persons has marginally gone up from around 75 lakh in 1993-94 to 90 lakh in 1999-2000 as per Usual Status Approach.

The approach to the Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

(d) and (e) Central Government is not in favour of giving unemployment allowance to the unemployed registered with Employment Exchanges due to financial constraints.

Elimination of child labour

4605. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given thought to control child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;